ROBOT×LASERBEAM

BY TADATOSHI FUJIMAKI

Robato Hatohara, a stupidly serious, creepily thorough and socially clueless high school boy, appears to have no interest in anything—including joining his friend Tomoya in the golf club. But when it's discovered that his perfect accuracy and calculations enable him to golf like a practiced professional, will he be able to escape playing golf?

PREVIOUSLY IN *ROBOT×LASERBEAM*:

After Robato Hatohara demonstrates his perfect swing, famous high school golfer Yozan Miura declares him to be his rival! But for their rivalry to actually grow, Robo needs to join the golf club and become a regular. A second-year student and regular, Rion Osanai, takes Robo under his wing to accomplish this goal and help him get a score in the seventies before the training camp. Robo survives the athletic training for the team, but his score isn't good enough to compete in the training camp. But then Kyosuke Suzaku, a.k.a. "the Emperor," appears and challenges Robo to play against him in the practice match! In the front nine, Robo ends up with the worst score out of anyone, with three over par. He vows to make par in the back nine. The other groups hole out at the 18th hole one by one, both schools are tied at 13 under. Robo and Kyosuke tee off. Kyosuke sets himself up for a birdie and a possible win. But suddenly, Robo breaks out a low-flying laser beam that bounces his ball off of Kyosuke's into the hole for an eagle, winning the match for Eiai Academy!

EI
AI
GAKUEN
FLOP
あ
AAAH
...!
SWF
SWF
FLOP
ARE YOU OKAY, RO-

TOIL
FLUSHHH
WHOA, ROBO!!
ZZZZ
PHEW...
YOU'VE STILL GOT SOME SOBA STUCK TO YOUR GLASSES.
IMAGINE IF YOU'D FALLEN ASLEEP IN RAMEN...
IT'S A GOOD THING IT WAS JUST COLD SOBA NOODLES.
HERE'S A TOWEL.
THANKS.
WELL, I DON'T BLAME YOU.
AFTER HOW YOU PLAYED THAT MATCH YESTERDAY.
YEAH... I'M JUST WORN-OUT AND SLEEPY.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?!

Round 25: Post-Golf Bath

OOOOH!
カポーン
KER-PLUNK
SCORE! A BATH!
I GUESS IT MAKES SENSE THAT A FANCY GOLF COURSE WOULD HAVE AN INDOOR BATH LIKE THIS.
It's so big...
This your first time, Robo?
OH YEAH. YOU'VE NEVER TAKEN ONE AFTER THE PRACTICE ROUNDS.
"THE GOLF COURSE IS MAKING AN EXCEPTION TODAY AND IS LETTING YOU ALL USE THEIR BATH.
"SO LET'S TAKE THEM UP ON THEIR KIND OFFER AND HAVE A GOOD SOAK BEFORE WE HEAD HOME."
THAT'S WHAT COACH SAID.
SPLOSH
AAAH!
THIS IS SO REFRESHING!

HEY. WHAT ARE YOU? A SNOW MONKEY?
RINSE OFF PROPERLY BEFORE YOU GET IN THE WATER.
IT'S FINE! I ALREADY RINSED OFF!
AND THAT'S THE SECOND TIME YOU'VE CALLED ME A MONKEY TODAY!
...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, TOMOYA?
NOTHING... I JUST REALIZED THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER TAKEN A BATH WITH ROBO.
AND I'M WATCHING HIM, BUT...
THE NUMBER OF TIMES HE SCRUBS...
...HIS RIGHT ARM IS THREE TIMES...
ゴシゴシSHK
HIS LEFT ARM IS THREE TIMES...
SHKSHKゴシゴシ
THE RIGHT SIDE OF HIS UPPER BODY IS THREE TIMES...
ゴシゴシSHK
SHKSHK
THE LEFT SIDE OF HIS UPPER BODY IS THREE TIMES...
SHK
ゴシSHKゴシ
ゴシゴシ
AND HIS RIGHT LEG IS THREE TIMES...
ゴシゴシSHK
SHKSHKSHK

...
SHK ゴッ
SHK ゴッ
SHK ゴッ
SHK ゴッ...
THE WAY HE CLEANS HIMSELF IS SO SYSTEMATIC IT'S SCARY...
And it's at the same set rhythm...

HITTING THAT LOW-FLYING SHOT AT THE LAST MINUTE DECIDED THE ENTIRE MATCH.
HIS SCORE WAS ONE UNDER HIS GOAL OF BEING IN THE SEVENTIES.

BUT IN ALL HONESTY, HE'S IMPRESSIVE.

NOW, THEN!
YEP! YOU SAID IT!

IN THE FUTURE, HE REALLY MIGHT MAKE A NAME FOR HIMSELF.
ROBO'S GOT IT.

I'M NOT SAYING YOU SHOULD GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO COVER UP, BUT...
...YOU'RE MAKING PEOPLE UNCOM-FORTABLE SHOWING YOURSELF OFF LIKE THAT.
HE'S RIGHT, FUWA.
Don't go standing with your junk in my face like you own the place! I'll kill you!
My eyes are gonna rot outta their sockets!
HM?
SHOWING OFF YOUR BUTT LIKE THAT IS MAKING ME UNCOMFORT-ABLE TOO!!
HURRY UP AND GET IN.
ENOUGH ABOUT THAT— JUST GET IN THE WATER ALREADY, YOU PERVERTED EMPEROR!
THIS PLACE HAS A GREAT GOLF COURSE.
I MUST SAY, THE VIEW FROM THE BATH IS BEAUTIFUL.

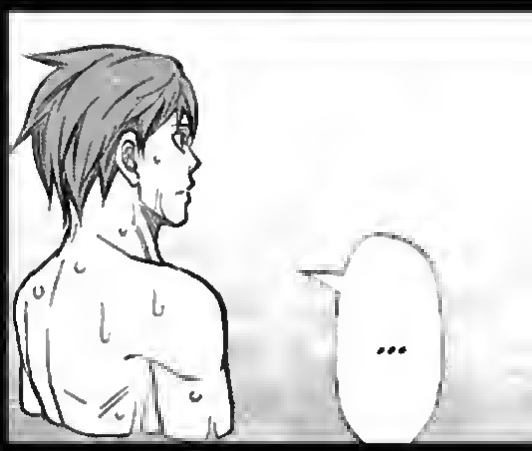
HEH HEH.
YOU, OF COURSE, ROBO-KUN.
PERFECT TIMING.

WHAT'S EVERYONE TALKING ABOUT...?

THERE'S ONE LAST THING I WANTED TO ASK YOU.

WERE YOU TRYING TO DO THAT?
YOUR SECOND SHOT ON THE 18TH HOLE... YOUR FINAL SHOT.

IT DIDN'T FOLLOW THE LINE I INTENDED.
I FLUBBED IT.
AND IT WAS ALSO JUST A COINCIDENCE THAT IT STRUCK YOUR BALL, SUZAKU-SAN.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BUT GOING FOR THE HOLE WAS MY INTENTION.
HEH...
I COULD PRACTI-CALLY HATE YOU FOR IT.
NO WONDER YO-KUN HAS HIS EYES ON YOU.
SPLOOSH
HEH HEH HEH!
GREAT!

BUT I SENSE THAT I'LL BE BATTLING YOU ONE DAY ON AN EVEN BIGGER STAGE.
SO I'LL FORGO CRUSHING YOU UNTIL THAT DAY COMES.
SPLOOSH
SPLOOSH
WE'LL MEET AGAIN, EIAI ACADEMY BOYS.
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE THE ONES WHO WON?!
UHH...
IS IT JUST ME OR DID THEY LEAVE LIKE BIG SHOTS?
RATTL
SHUNK

PRETTY MUCH OUR ENTIRE TEAM PERFORMED AT THEIR VERY BEST.
WHILE THEIR SIDE WAS OFF THEIR GAME TODAY.
HUH?
I DUNNO IF YOU COULD SAY THAT...
TOHOKU INTERNATIONAL'S A TEAM THAT ALWAYS MAKES THEIR SHOTS WHEN IT COUNTS.
IF THEY'D GOTTEN AT LEAST SOME OF THOSE IN, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THE OUTCOME WOULD'VE BEEN.
I'M NOT SAYING THAT THEY WENT EASY ON US.
BUT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF TIMES THEIR PUTTS JUST BARELY MISSED THE HOLE.
HE HAS UNIQUE ABILITIES THAT MAKE HIM WORTHY OF HIS EMPEROR TITLE.
BUT IN TODAY'S ROUND, HE BARELY USED ANY OF THEM.
PLUS, SUZAKU'S PROBLEM WASN'T HIS FORM.
IT'S CLEAR HE WASN'T GIVING IT HIS ALL.
...?!

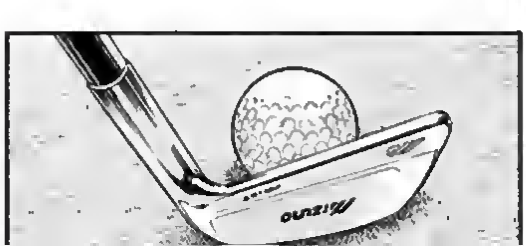
NEXT TIME, HE'LL PROBABLY BE A FAR MORE FORMIDABLE OPPONENT THAN HE WAS TODAY.
DIIING
DAAANG
OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
STAND.
BOW.
DOOONG

THERE'S NO PRACTICE TODAY.
AND WITH HOW UNSTEADY YOU ARE, YOU SHOULD GO STRAIGHT HOME.
WAH!
LET'S HEAD HOME, ROBO.
WAH!
I'D LIKE YOU TO COME WITH ME SOMEWHERE ...
ACTU-ALLY ...
LISTEN, TOMOYA.
KLANK
PSSHT
KLSSSH

THE PRACTICE RANGE?
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, ROBO?!

I'VE NEVER HEARD ROBO SAY THIS BEFORE.
ALL HE'D DO WAS RUN DURING PRACTICE.
HUH ?!

HMMM.
I GUESS ...
...I WANTED TO HIT SOME BALLS.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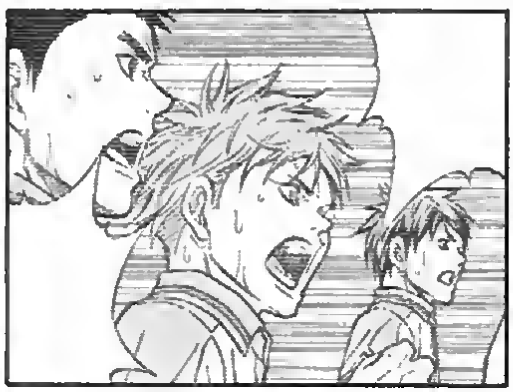
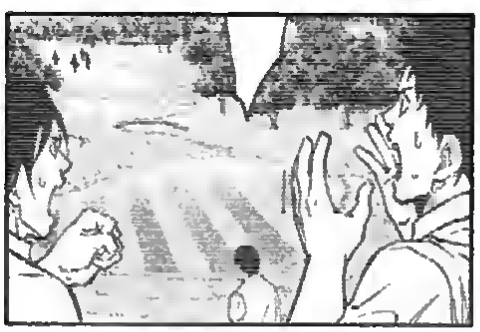
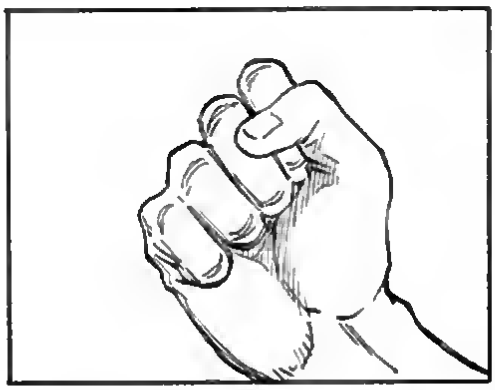




THOK
WOOSH
THUD

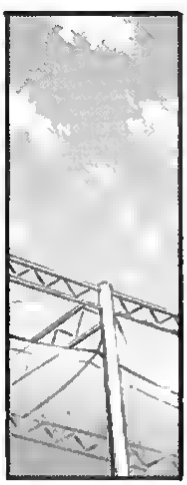
...THE SAME LOW-FLYING LASER BEAM YOU HIT AT THE END OF THE MATCH?!
AND WASN'T THAT JUST NOW...
WHOAAA! GREAT SWING AS ALWAYS!
NICE SHOT!



I'M SORRY... I WAS WRONG.
YESTERDAY'S MATCH...WAS THE MOST EXCITED I'VE BEEN IN MY ENTIRE LIFE.

TOMO-YA.
WHEN YOU FIRST ASKED ME TO JOIN THE GOLF CLUB...
...DO YOU REMEMBER THAT I ASKED YOU WHAT WAS SO FUN ABOUT IT?
HUH?
UH... YEAH.

GOLF IS FUN.



WOW. THAT ONE LOOKED LIKE IT WAS GOING TO BUST THROUGH THE NET.
HE'S SUDDENLY RAMPED UP HIS GAME EVER SINCE HE READ THAT EMAIL FROM THE EMPEROR.
WHOOSH
BONK
SO HE'S GOTTEN THE EMPEROR TO ACKNOWL-EDGE HIM.
BUT I'M GOING TO GO EVEN FURTHER.
HURRY UP AND COME FOR ME... IF YOU WAIT, YOU'LL BE LEFT BEHIND, ROBATO!!
SAIXON ZR

TO BE CONTINUED...